

ABOUT VISUAL ARTISTS

Kate Hunt: Recent Works

Through Feb. 21 at the Missoula Art Museum, with a gallery talk at 7 p.m. Dec. 5 and a panel discussion with Pat Zentz, 1 p.m. Dec. 6

Artist's website: katehunt.com

Kate Hunt is a Montana sculptor who uses newspapers to communicate her ideas. She was raised in Chester, a town of 900 on the Hi-Line, and says the subtle power of that landscape has influenced her work.

A graduate of Kansas City Art Institute, where she first started building large weavings with newspaper, and Cranbrook Academy of Art, Hunt has been awarded a Montana Arts Council Fellowship Award and a Gottlieb Grant. The artist has shown nationally and internationally and her work is in many prominent collections.

In her artist statement, Hunt writes that her work arises from "a personal conversation with the concept, materials and the world around me ... Once my conversation is done and the piece is in the gallery and in front of the audience, it becomes their conversation."

Missoula Art Museum describes her exhibit, which includes an assembly of more than 30 columns, titled "Floor," as "full of surprises."

"Initially, the viewer brings with them a preconceived notion that newspaper should be recycled and is fragile and disposable. But one of the powerful messages manifested by Hunt in this exhibit is the idea that newspaper is strong, durable, and resists decomposition. There is a sense of discovery in uncovering the human energy and ingenuity in the construction of her work ...

"She is ingenious in marrying skills. She is an artist who brings together the skills of a print-shop trimmer, drill-press operator, metal fabricator, and construction worker. She paints, draws, and fabricates. She has a very strong drive and direction and knows exactly where she wants to arrive."



Kate Hunt with "Floor"

James Boot: "A Pair of Boots"

Through March 22 at Hangin' Art Gallery in Arlee, with a reception and artists' talk from 2-4 p.m. Nov. 8

Artist's website: www.nathanboot.com

St. Ignatius watercolorist James Boot pairs up with his son, Nathan, in "Two Boots," an exhibit that draws inspiration from the Montana landscape.

A descendent of Danish house builders and cabinetmakers, James began building furniture more than 40 years ago. His unique creations, adorned with carvings and architectural renderings, have won numerous woodworking awards, and his work has been exhibited at galleries, museums, and some of the finest homes around the world.

Arthritis forced him to retire from woodworking and he now creates watercolors from his home and studio in the woods east of St. Ignatius. His paintings are inspired by "the incredible magic of nature and the mystery behind it," and the harmony and inner peace evoked by his relationship to the natural world.

He uses watercolors, pastels, gouache and ink in his paintings. "I'm particularly fond of the way watercolors can be vivid and bold, or soft and suggestive," he says.

His woodworking and carving skills come into play as he crafts his frames, which often reflect Arts and Crafts of Mission-style designs. "Painting, carving, framing, and design – it all begins for me with a visualization process that evolves into a pattern or composition ... For me, creativity is an organic and personal process."

Nathan, who began building furniture professionally at age 14, also learned carving from his father. Even now, they collaborate on projects and art pieces. His work also includes printmaking, and some of his hand-framed woodblock prints will be on display at Hangin' Art, as well as furniture and some "Two Boots" collaborations.



"Going to the Sun, Glacier Park" by James Boot

Loren Kovich, "Big Sky Scapes"

Nov. 4-28 at Copper Village, with at reception at 6 p.m. Nov. 5

Artist's website: lorenkovich.com

Award-winning artist Loren Kovich lives and paints in Helena. His acrylics and watercolors, which he describes as "Big Sky Scapes," reside in both private and corporate collections.

Kovich's realistic watercolors display the effect of light and shadow on the landscape and wildlife of his native state, while his semi-abstract acrylic works employ color, movement, texture and shape to uniquely

portray his vision. "Living in Montana provides more than enough subject matter," he says.

Kovich is a graduate of Montana State University, who taught art to junior high and high school students for eight years before deciding to paint full time. He's been a professional artist for more than 30 years and is also a well-respected workshop instructor.

His work has received awards in numerous national and regional juried shows.

Kovich is a Signature Member of the American Watercolor Society, a Signature Member of the Transparent Watercolor Society of America and a member of the Montana Watercolor Society. He's also been a finalist in the Artists Magazine Painting Competition and his work has been featured in several books on painting, including *Keys to Painting Light and Shadow*, *Great Paintings from Photographs* and *100 Ways to Paint Flowers and Gardens*.

Although the artist has two distinct styles of work, he says one feeds the other. The semi-abstract acrylics are "something new and have added more depth to my realistic signature work."



"First Light Gathering" by Loren Kovich

Bird and Hand: Glass Sculpture by Ona Magaro

Nov. 1-Dec. 4 at tart in the Emerson Center, with an opening reception from 5-8 p.m. Nov. 14

Artist's website: onamagaro.com

A collection of hands and birds rendered in glass are on display in this very personal show, inspired by the physical challenges glass artist Ona Magaro experiences with her own hands, and a love of the motion and form of birds in flight and at rest.



"Bird Hand" by Ona Magaro

Design at Alfred University in New York, and her master's from Bowling Green State University in Ohio.

"I create with my hands for balance," she writes, "a visual language to reckon with myself and as an article of fruition for others. At times, I create to express my state of being that will run through a lifetime of work. Other times, it is a mark in my ever-changing creative cycle."

Magaro does commission work, lighting, unique artistic pieces, multi-media sculptures and production lines of her smaller works. In addition, her studio offers "a collaborative hot spot" for other artists and people mesmerized with the glass-blowing process. "I love opening up that world of possibilities to someone through glass," she told the *Bozeman Chronicle*.

Blowing glass is physically demanding, "especially when I want my piece visually unbalanced at the end of it," Magaro told the *Chronicle*. "But I like the speed and the heat of the moment. I only have one chance to make it work and it is exhilarating."

Lisa Wareham, "Deep Butte Roots"

Through Nov. 30 at the Clark Chateau, Butte

Artist's website: lisawareham.com

This unique photography exhibit unravels the stories of the Butte community, recognizing the people whose labors built the once-thriving metropolis. Lisa Wareham explores "then and now" by photographing people and families against a backdrop of history – be it the mine where their grandfather worked, the neighborhood where they grew up, or their long-time family tradition of making Irish soda bread.

Wareham tells their stories through captions, old family photographs and letters, paired with her contemporary images.

Two "then-and-now" photos of Florence "Toots" Vucurovich depict her wielding a baton in front of a mine dump on Oklahoma St., and in the same location, holding up her Butte High School letter, many decades later. A third image shows Florence seated in a settee next to the front steps of her former neighbor's house (now demolished) and in front of where her old family home once was, flanked by kids and grandkids.

Wareham, who has a professional photography studio in Uptown Butte, is an unabashed fan of the Mining City. "Come here for a day and you'll notice the friendliness of strangers you won't get any other place, the unique cuisine of pork-chop sandwiches and pasties that are family traditions, and an urban landscape of century-old architecture," she writes on a section of her website called the Butte Daily Photo. She started this photographic journal "to keep myself inspired before taking the leap to full time photography in 2009."

"I think a person is made of their history," she writes. "The people and places that once were" come to life again in this eloquent tribute to her hometown.



Portrait of Florence "Toots" Vucurovich by Lisa Wareham

About Visual Artists
compiled by Kristi
Niemeyer



Send your submissions for About Visual Arts

With About Visual Arts, *State of the Arts* continues to profile living Montana artists (no students, please), whose work is the focus of a current exhibit (on display during some portion of the two months covered by the current issue of *State of the Arts*).

Submissions must include:

- A digital image of the artist's work, with title of the piece (at least 200 dpi);
- A brief bio and description of the artist's work;
- Dates and title of exhibit; and
- The gallery or museum name, town and phone number.

MAC will select submissions that reflect a cross-section of gender, geography, styles and ethnicity, and are from a mix of public and private galleries and museums.

Deadline for submissions for the January/February issue is Monday, Dec. 1. Send submissions to writesus@livelytimes.com with About Visual Arts in the subject line.